

**Amendment No. 1 to SJR0128**

**Fowler  
Signature of Sponsor**

**AMEND Senate Joint Resolution No. 128\* <HB>**

|                   |
|-------------------|
| <b>FILED</b>      |
| Date _____        |
| Time _____        |
| Clerk _____       |
| Comm. Amdt. _____ |
| _____             |

by deleting all language after the caption and by substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, between 1999 and 2002, the State of Tennessee suffered from a significant disparity between revenues and proposed expenses due to a number of factors; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the budgetary issues facing the State, Tennessee' bond rating was reduced; and

WHEREAS, in July 2002, in the face of a continuing disparity between revenues and proposed expenses, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a \$933 million tax package, one component of which was an increase in the state's sales tax; and

WHEREAS, as a part of that tax measure, in Section 12 of Chapter 856 of the Public Acts of 2002, an independent Tax Structure Study Commission was created to evaluate the Tennessee tax system in terms of soundness, fairness, equity, and deductibility, and, if appropriate, to recommend changes to the Tennessee tax code in order to enhance the soundness, fairness, equity, and adequacy thereof; the charge centered on ways to make the State tax system competitive with surrounding states and promoting balance, stability and elasticity; and

WHEREAS, the Commission was composed of 19 voting members and five non-voting members, who convened for more than 40 meeting days in 2003 and 2004 to produce a report; the voting members of the Commission were Nelson C. Andrews, Chair; Webb Banks of the Tennessee Municipal League; Theresa Bibb Colin; John G. Hankins of AARP; Dan Haskell of the Chambers of Commerce; Waymon Hickman representing Bankers; Joe Huddleston representing Tax Attorneys; Milton Johnson representing Hospitals; Andrea Bond Johnson; Julius Johnson of the Farm Bureau; Jerry Mansfield representing County Officials; Gary Poe representing Business; Will Pugh representing CPAs; Dr. Ruthie Reynolds; Robert Rochelle

representing the Tennessee State Employees Association; Hal Roe representing families; A. J. Starling representing Labor; Ellen Thornton; and Dr. Carolyn Baldwin Tucker representing Insurance; and

WHEREAS, the five non-voting members were Dr. Albert DePrince of Middle Tennessee State University; Dr. Bill Fox of the University of Tennessee; William Henderson, JD/CPA of Vanderbilt University; Dr. John Malloy of the University of Memphis; and Dr. Grover Porter of Tennessee State University; the excellent Study Commission staff included Eileen Smith, Executive Director, and Debora Pentecost, Executive Assistant; and

WHEREAS, each member of the Commission contributed significant amounts of time and energy to the project, and together they brought to bear their considerable collective knowledge and experience; the Commission reviewed and digested volumes of information, listened carefully and respectfully to various advocacy groups, and were guided by nine Principles of a High-Quality Revenue System, as outlined by the National Council of State Legislatures; and

WHEREAS, the Commission, reflecting the difficulty of the issues before them, filed measured and thoughtful majority and minority reports based on their best judgment, arrived at after hearing deeply felt and often widely divergent philosophical views from a wide range of opinion groups within this State; their dedication to their task is unquestionable and constitutes a great service to their fellow citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and thank each voting and non-voting member, as well as the staff, of the Tax Structure Study Commission for their dedication and selfless sacrifice of time and effort to thoroughly examine a difficult issue of vital importance to the citizenry of our State. We wish them well in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.